

# Hydrogen Fueled Ferry Feasibility Study and CFD Modeling of Leak Scenarios

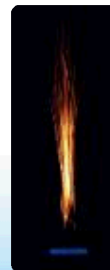
Gabriela Bran-Anleu

Myra Blaylock, Joe Pratt

# Sandia National Laboratories

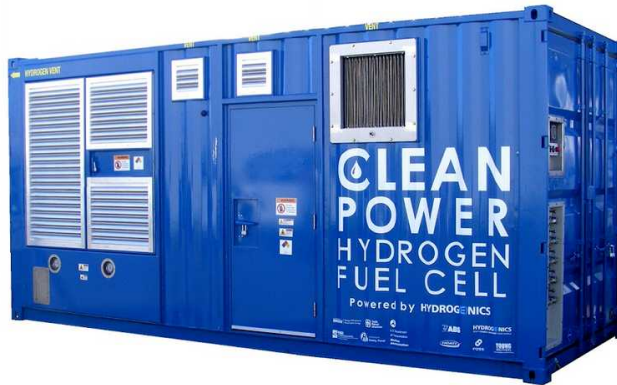
## “Exceptional service in the national interest”

- Largest National Lab in U.S.
  - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
  - ~12,000 employees
  - ~US\$2.3B/yr from DOE, other federal agencies, and private industry
  - H<sub>2</sub> Program in Livermore, CA (HQ in Albuquerque, NM)
- Hydrogen program: 60+ years technical depth in a wide range of areas, which we apply to enable impactful clean energy solutions



# Sandia's Zero Emission Maritime Program

## Maritime Hydrogen Fuel Cell Project (MarFC)



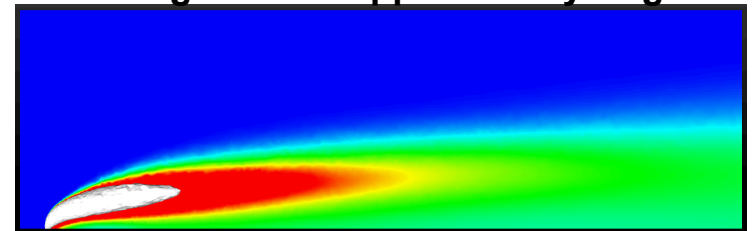
## San Francisco Bay Renewable Energy Electric vessel with Zero Emissions (SF-BREEZE)



## Zero Emissions Research Oceanographic Vessel (ZERO/V)



## IMO code development Examination of Maritime Hazardous Zone Regulations Applied to Hydrogen



And more...

Visit: [maritime.sandia.gov](http://maritime.sandia.gov)

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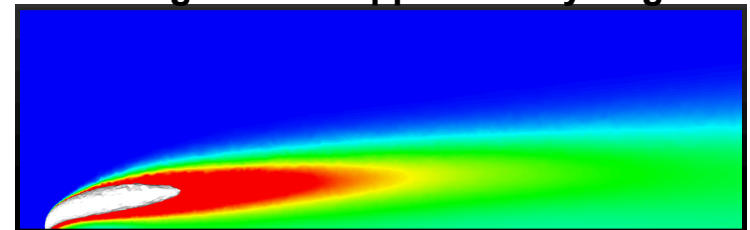
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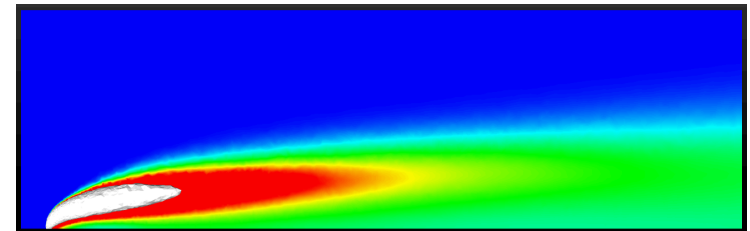
# Outline

- SF-BREEZE Feasibility Study
  - Why H<sub>2</sub>
  - Initial design
- Gas Dispersion Analysis
  1. Abnormal Blowdown from LH<sub>2</sub> Tank
  2. Normal “Boiloff”
  3. Leak in Fuel Cell Room

## San Francisco Bay Renewable Energy Electric vessel with Zero Emissions (SF-BREEZE)



## Examination of Maritime Hazardous Zone Regulations Applied to Hydrogen



# Outline

- **SF-BREEZE Feasibility Study**

- Why H<sub>2</sub>
- Initial design

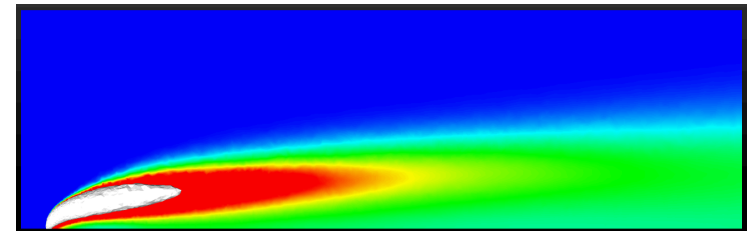
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## San Francisco Bay Renewable Energy Electric vessel with Zero Emissions (SF-BREEZE)



## Examination of Maritime Hazardous Zone Regulations Applied to Hydrogen



# SF-BREEZE Project Concept

## High-speed H<sub>2</sub> Ferry



Engineering model of the SF-BREEZE

## Dockside Fueling Station



Example existing dockside hydrogen station in Hamburg, Germany

***Technically Possible?***

***Accepted by Regulators?***

***Commercially Viable?***

# Red and White Fleet



- Founded in 1892
- Offers over 5,000 sightseeing trips/yr under the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Fleet: 4 passenger vessels, steel mono hulls, 350 to 600 pax.
- Run 6 Tier III engines and 10 Tier II engines across their fleet to provide a service with the highest level of environmental responsibility
- In 2014, Mr. Escher made a commitment to providing their services on a **zero emission vessel**



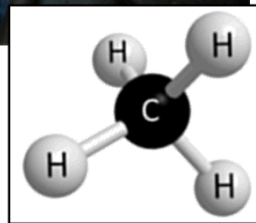


# Hydrogen is a combustible fuel, very similar to natural gas, but does not contain *carbon*.

H<sub>2</sub>O  
CO  
CO<sub>2</sub>



Natural gas



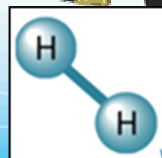
Hydrogen is the lightest gas



H<sub>2</sub>O



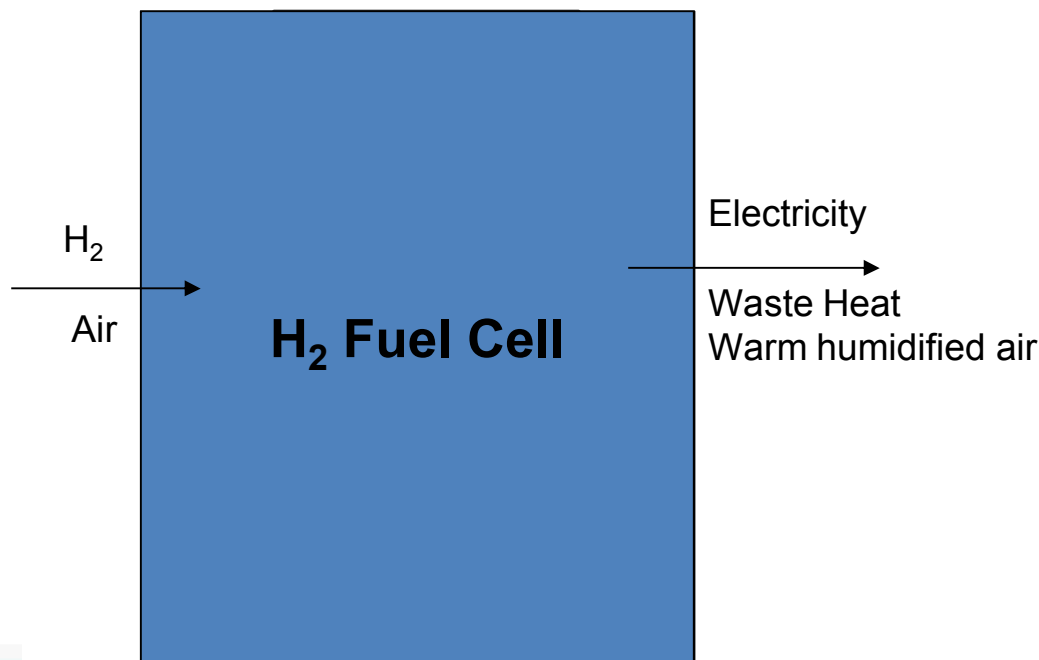
Hydrogen



NG H<sub>2</sub>

# When hydrogen is used in a *Fuel Cell*, it produces ZERO pollution or greenhouse gas

## Hydrogen Fuel Cell



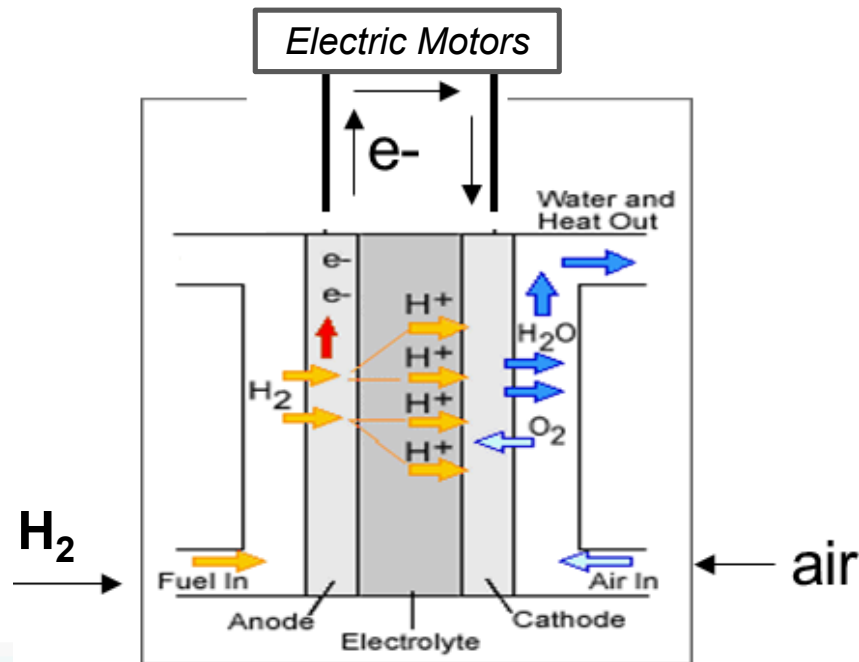
## Hydrogen Fuel Cell Room



Photos Courtesy Ryan Sookoo, Hydrogenics

# When hydrogen is used in a *Fuel Cell*, it produces ZERO pollution or greenhouse gas

## Hydrogen Fuel Cell



## Hydrogen Fuel Cell Room



Photos Courtesy Ryan Sookoo, Hydrogenics

# Hydrogen fueling stations and fuel cell electric vehicles are in the Bay Area today

Hyundai Tucson



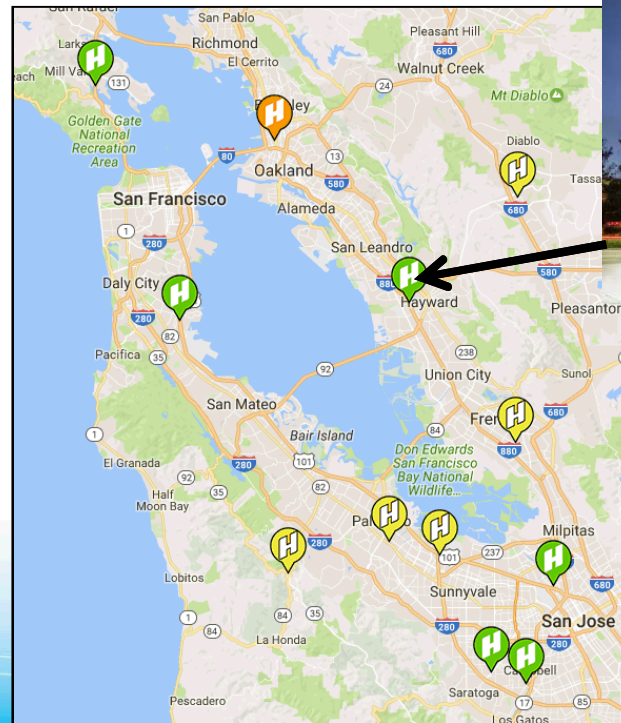
Toyota Mirai



Honda Clarity



AC Transit buses



Hayward hydrogen fueling station



# Ways to Store Hydrogen on the SF-BREEZE

## Gaseous tanks

~2,000 psi steel or aluminum



5,000-10,000 psi carbon fiber composite assemblies



## Liquid hydrogen



## Metal Hydride



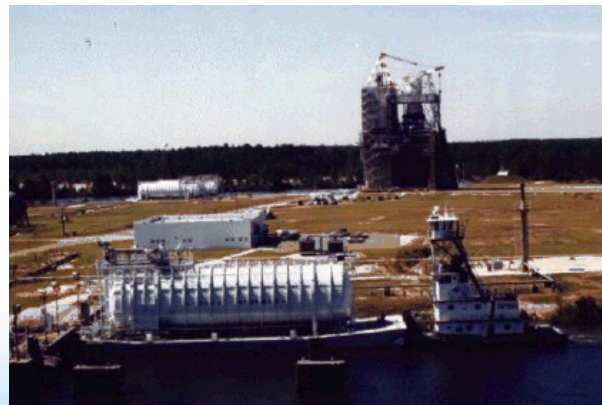
***Liquid hydrogen is the lightest option for the SF-BREEZE***

# LH<sub>2</sub> has been safely used for decades



AC Transit bus fueling facility, Emeryville

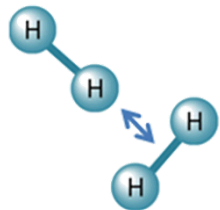
- LH<sub>2</sub> tanks are double walled vacuum insulated stainless steel tanks with steel shell.
- A typical trailer can deliver 4000 kg (~15,000 gallons) at a time.



# Vessel design with LH<sub>2</sub> is similar to that with LNG

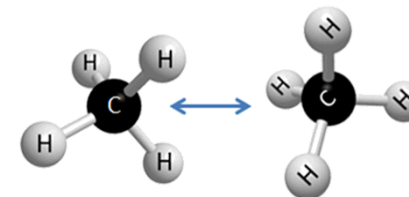
## Commonalities

- Similar combustion properties
- Same safety design method:
  - Leak avoidance and monitoring
  - Minimize ignition sources
  - Provide ventilation



## Major Differences

- H<sub>2</sub> is much more buoyant than CH<sub>4</sub> - even when very cold
- LH<sub>2</sub> is colder and can condense/freeze air



**For the same amount of stored energy:**

- LH<sub>2</sub> is lighter ( $m = 0.38 \times \text{LNG}$ )
- LH<sub>2</sub> is bigger ( $V = 2.4 \times \text{LNG}$ )

**The current use of LNG as a maritime propulsion fuel is paving the way for use of LH<sub>2</sub> for vessels.**



# SF-BREEZE Operating Requirements

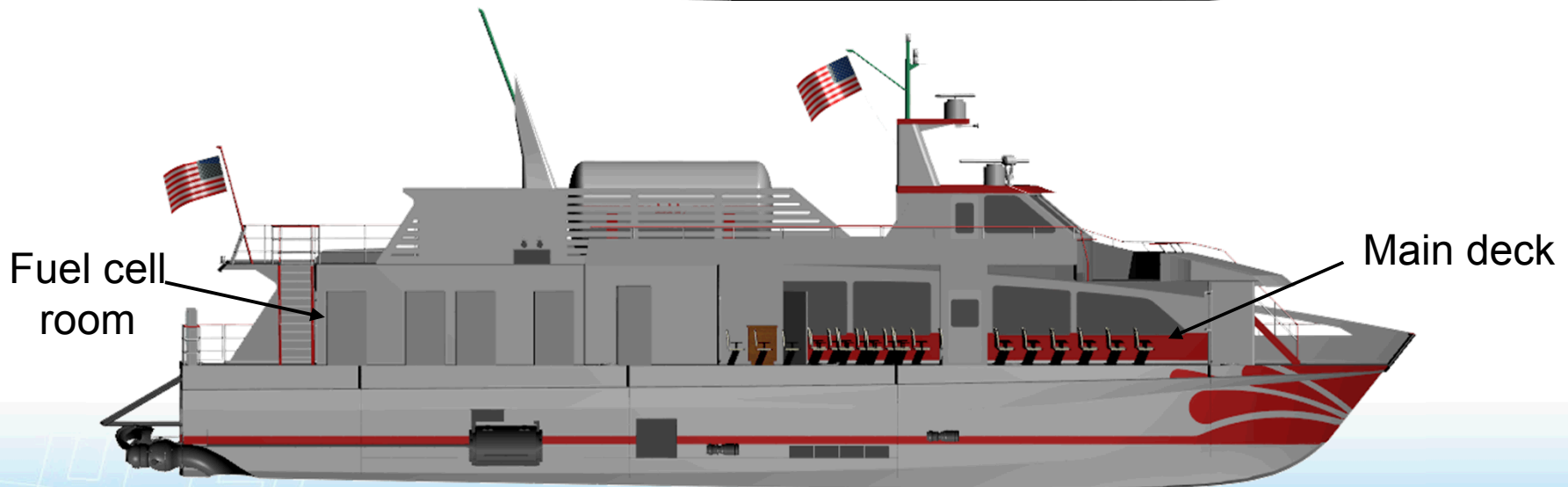
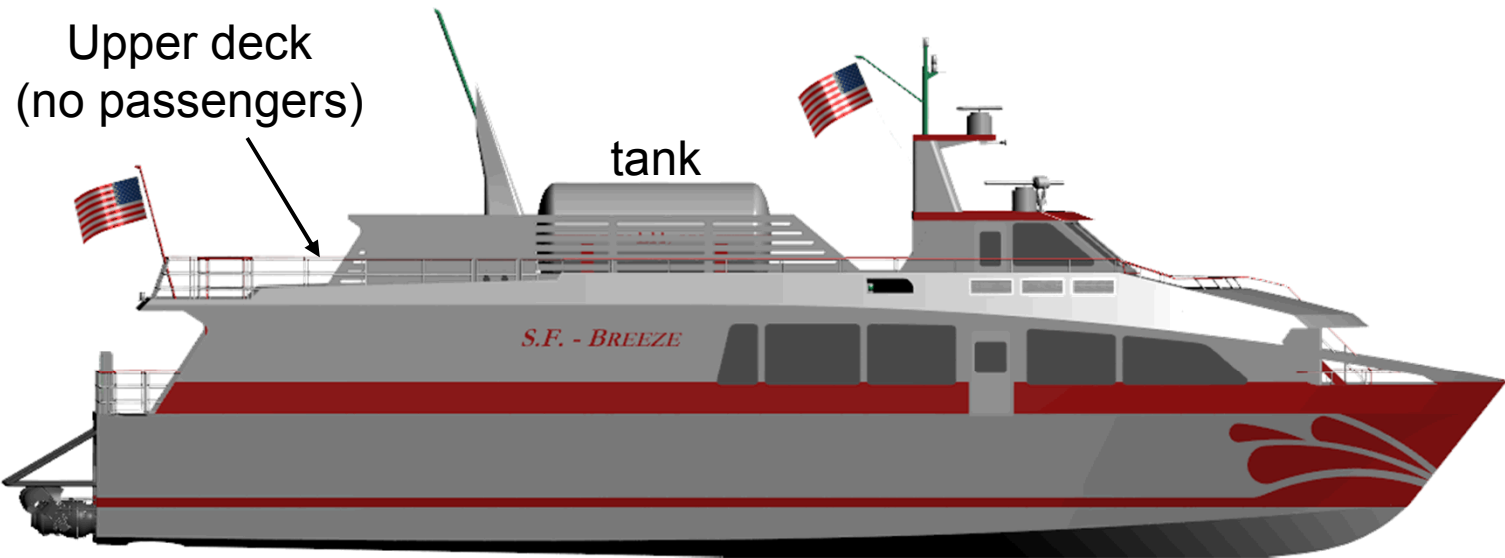
- High-speed commuter ferry in an ocean bay environment – true commercial competitive service
- **35 kts** top speed, **23 nm** one-way
- Each round trip would use about 400 kg LH<sub>2</sub>
- Daily logistics:
  1. Two morning round trips (~100 nm)
  2. Refuel in less than 1 hr at midday
  3. Two afternoon round trips (~100 nm)
  4. Refuel again at night





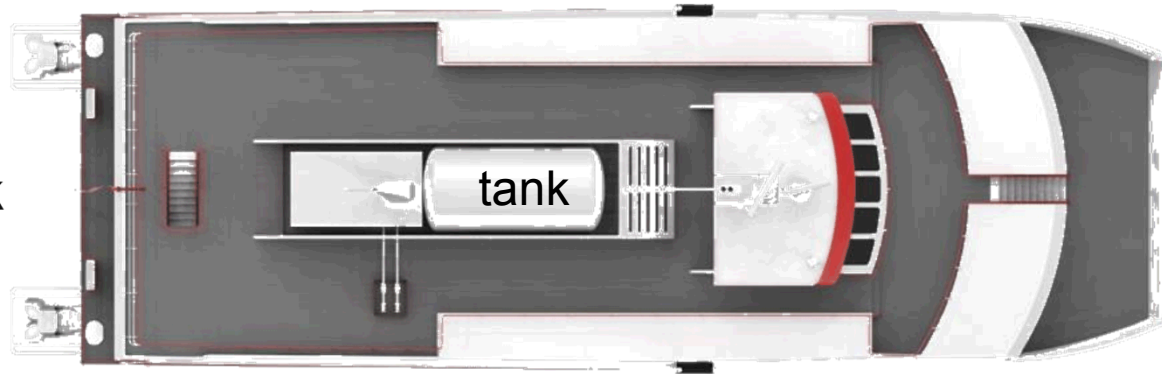
# The final SF-BREEZE design meets all requirements





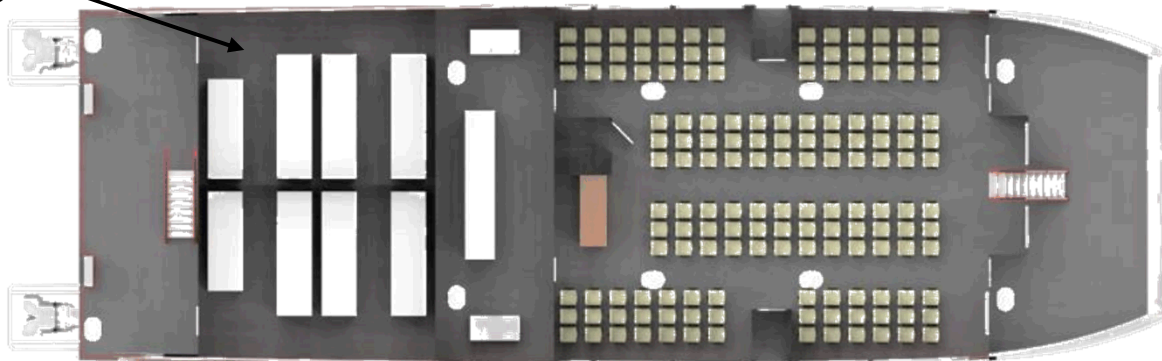
Water jet and electric motors (no H<sub>2</sub> in the hulls)

**Upper Deck**



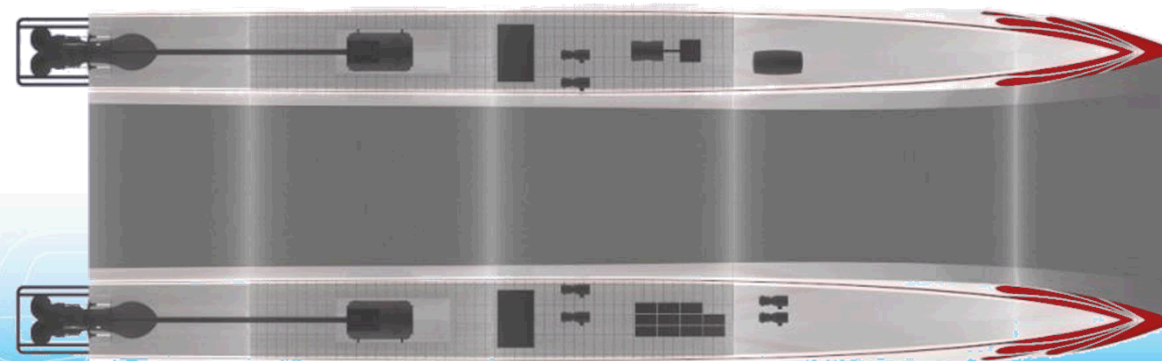
Fuel Cells

**Main Deck**



150  
Passengers

**Hulls**



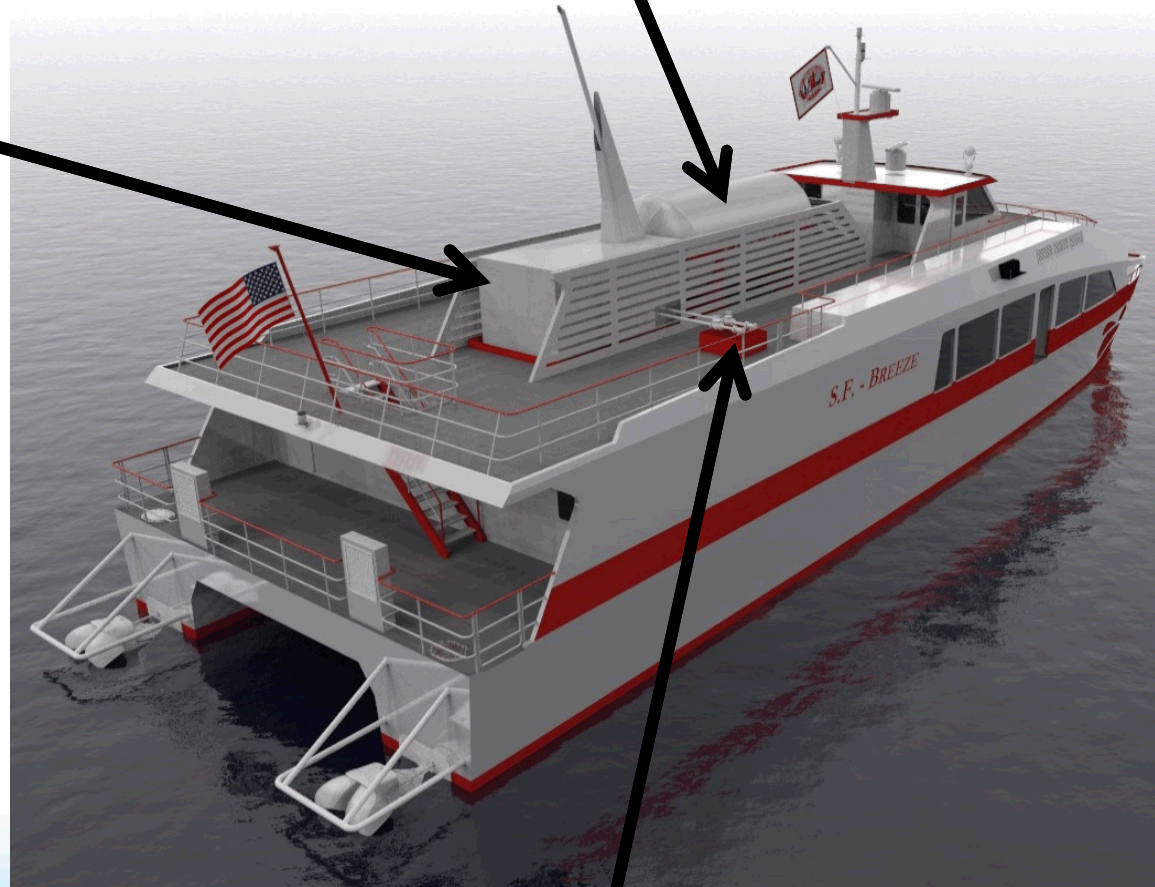


# SF-BREEZE Fueling Characteristics

1,200 kg (~4,800 gallons) LH<sub>2</sub> tank

Vaporizers

Each round trip uses about **400 kg** of LH<sub>2</sub>



Bunkering connection



# A comprehensive regulatory assessment was performed by all partners.



## USCG:

- Office of Design and Engineering Standards
- Marine Safety Center
- Sector San Francisco
- Liquid Gas Carrier National Center of Expertise



## American Bureau of Shipping

## Elliott Bay Design Group

## Sandia National Labs

## MARAD

## Red and White Fleet

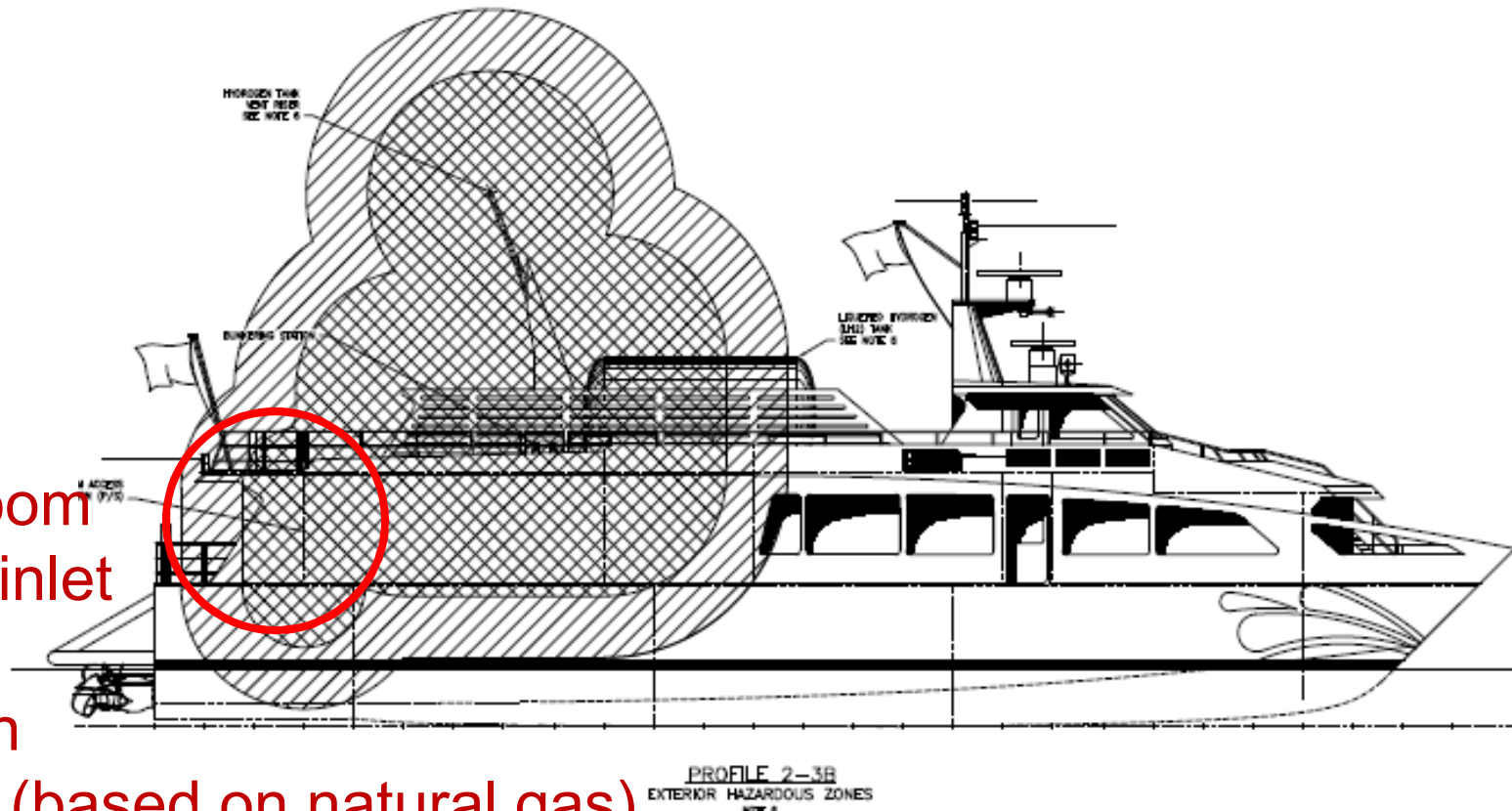
## Findings:

- No regulatory show-stoppers
- 62 of 68 design aspects found covered by design basis documents
- *Gas dispersion analyses required for suggested hazardous zone exceptions*

# Example hazardous zone exception

Hydrogen

Fuel cell room  
ventilation inlet  
location in  
conflict with  
IGF 13.3.5 (based on natural gas)



- Qualitatively, it appears that the high buoyancy of hydrogen precludes the need for a hazardous zone to extend lower than the elevation of release.
- Quantitative gas dispersion analysis is required for Class and Flag approval.

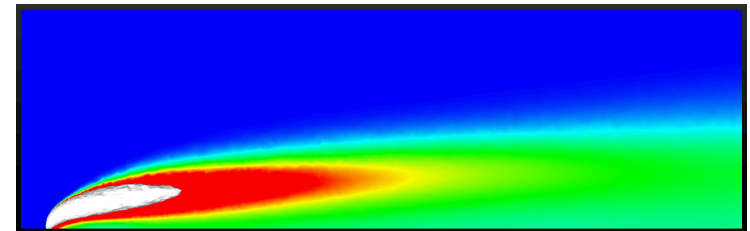
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## San Francisco Bay Renewable Energy Electric vessel with Zero Emissions (SF-BREEZE)



## Examination of Maritime Hazardous Zone Regulations Applied to Hydrogen



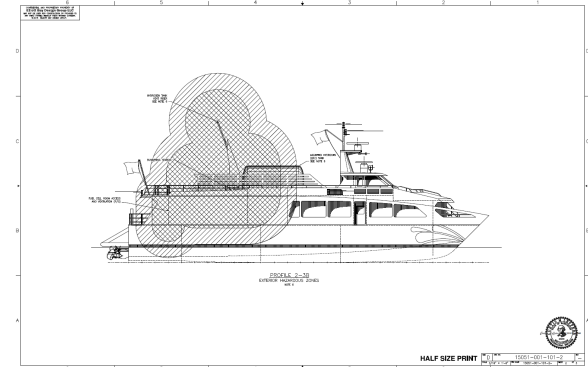


# Gas Dispersion Analysis

- Goal
  - Inform accurate overall hazardous zone requirements for hydrogen
- Benefit of defining hazardous zones for hydrogen
  - Enable faster and easier approval by reducing the need for gas dispersion studies on every future vessel submitted for approval
  - Avoid placing undue burden on vessel design and layout
  - Avoid situations that are unsafe
- Approach
  - Define most significant leak scenarios with stakeholders: US Coast Guard, American Bureau of Shipping, DNV-GL
  - Perform detailed modeling of these initial scenarios
  - Define whether a need for follow-on scenario studies

# H<sub>2</sub> Release Scenarios

1. Abnormal Blowdown from LH<sub>2</sub> Tank
  - Are the Hazardous Zones in the right place?
  - Maximum release
  - Docked vs. moving
2. Normal “Boiloff”
3. Leak in Fuel Cell Room
  - Equivalent to engine room
  - Concerned about ventilation, overpressure and fire.
  - Sensors will shut off supply quickly



©Hydrogenics Corp.

# Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

- Sandia's Sierra Suite: Fuego – incompressible flow solver
  - Reynolds' Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS)
  - Variables adapted for “jet in crossflow” conditions
  - Small scale turbulence is averaged, so dissipation is under predicted
- Wind speeds:
  - 0 knots – calm day at docks
  - 5 knots – normal wind at docks
  - 30 knots – moving or very windy at docks
- Wind is assumed constant laminar flow for entire length of the release
  - Conservative results, especially for long-length releases and high-wind speeds



# Outline

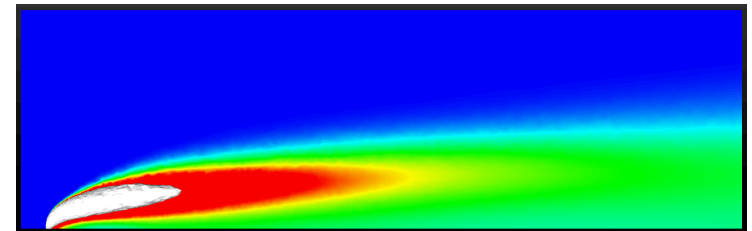
- SF-BREEZE Feasibility Study

**San Francisco Bay Renewable Energy Electric vessel with Zero Emissions (SF-BREEZE)**



- **Gas Dispersion Analysis**
  1. **Abnormal Blowdown from LH<sub>2</sub> Tank**
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**Examination of Maritime Hazardous Zone Regulations Applied to Hydrogen**



# Scenario 1: Abnormal Blowdown Opened Pressure Relief Device from Large LH<sub>2</sub> Tank

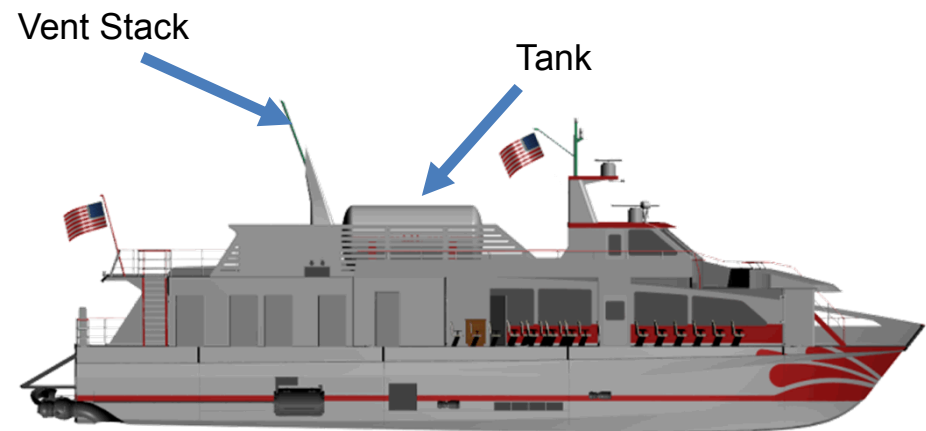
- Full Blowdown of LH<sub>2</sub> tank through a Vent Stack

- Tank Dimensions

- 150 PSI
- ~4500 gallons
- 1 inch leak through valve
- ~ 6 minutes to empty

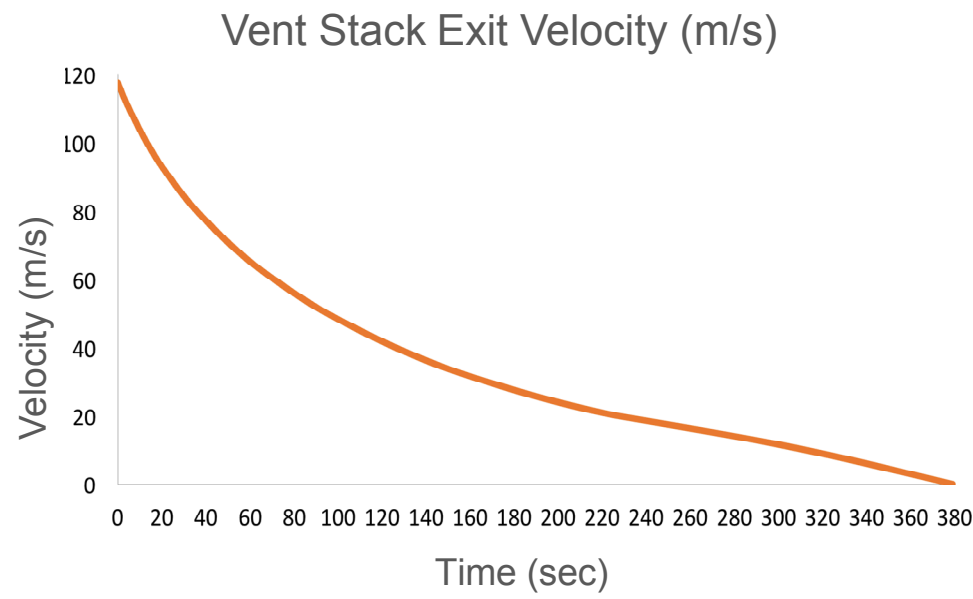
- Vent Stack

- ~7 inch internal diameter
- 25 feet tall (7.5 m)
- Modeled as straight up



# Worst Case: Blowdown when tank is 90% vapor

- Two phases in tank: liquid and vapor
- Leak will dump vapor quickly, then be limited to “boil off” amounts
  - Only modelled the vapor release
- Biggest H<sub>2</sub> release comes from tank with mostly vapor
  - 10% liquid for cases shown
- Tank empties vapor in ~6 minutes



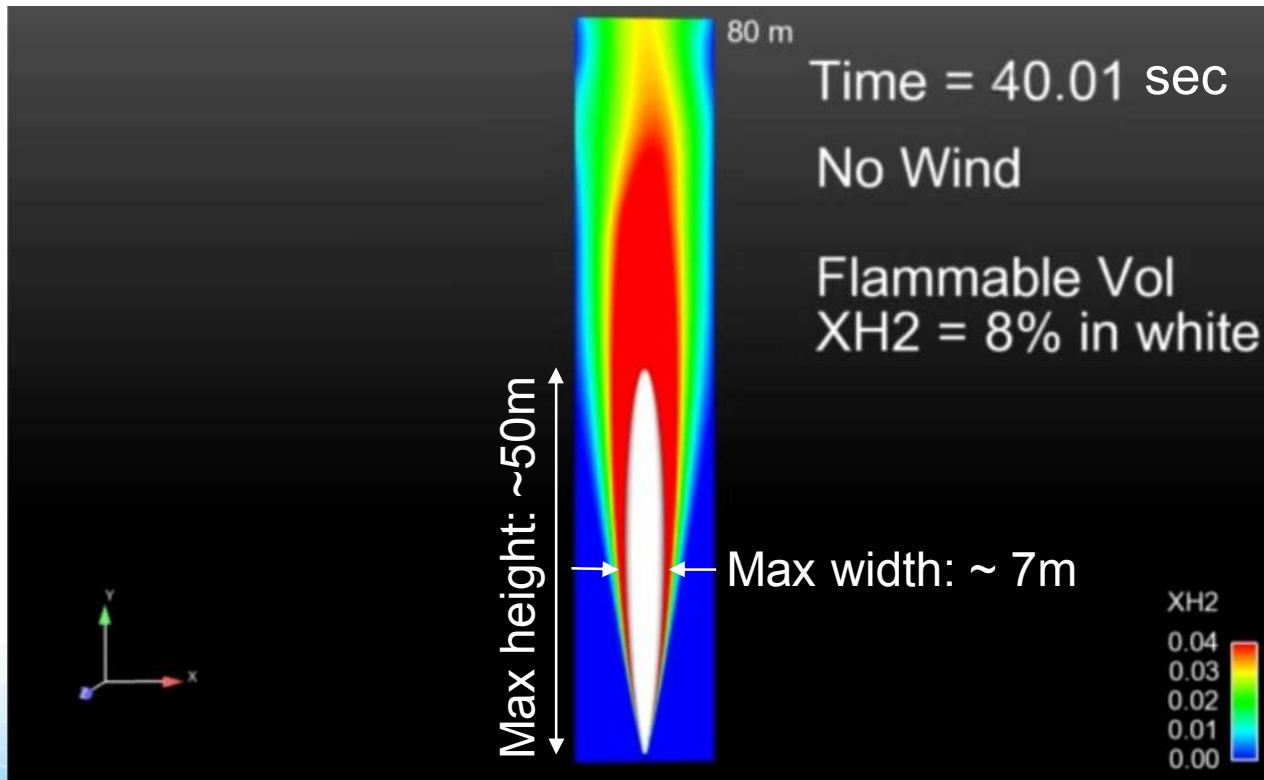


# CFD of SF-BREEZE H<sub>2</sub> Release Without Wind



# CFD of SF-BREEZE LH<sub>2</sub> Release Without Wind

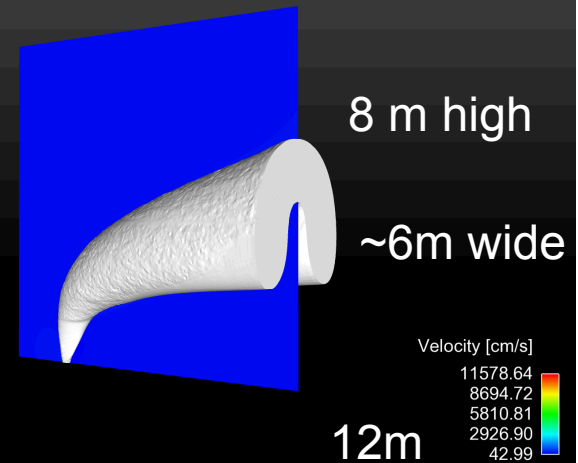
- White shows flammable mass with volumetric concentration between 8%-75%
- Flammable Region Reaches ~50 m high
  - Max Height at about 20 sec



# CFD of SF-BREEZE LH<sub>2</sub> Release With 5 knot Wind

- White shows flammable mass with volumetric concentration between 8%-75%

5 knot Wind  
Time = 6.432 sec



5 knot Wind  
Time = 0.000 sec

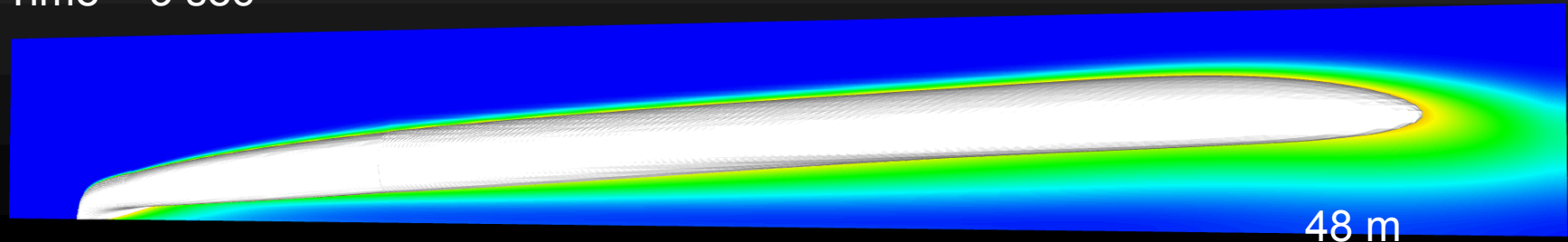


- Jet-in-Crossflow creates counter-rotating vortices
- Light weight H<sub>2</sub> pushed by wind
- Max: 20 m long, 8 m high @ 14 sec

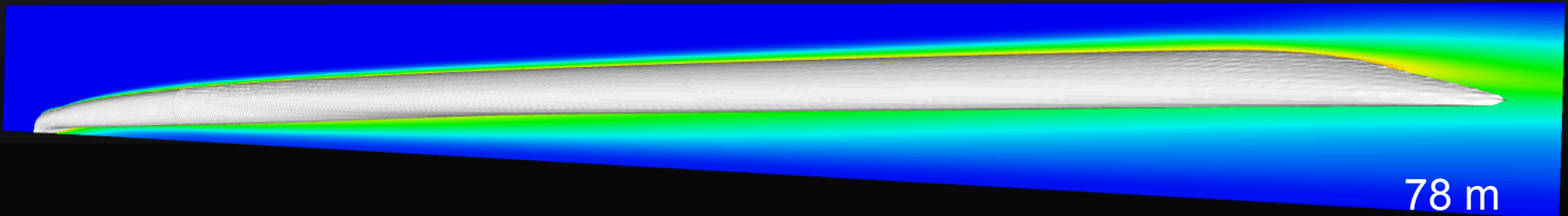


# CFD of SF-BREEZE LH<sub>2</sub> Release With 30 knot Wind

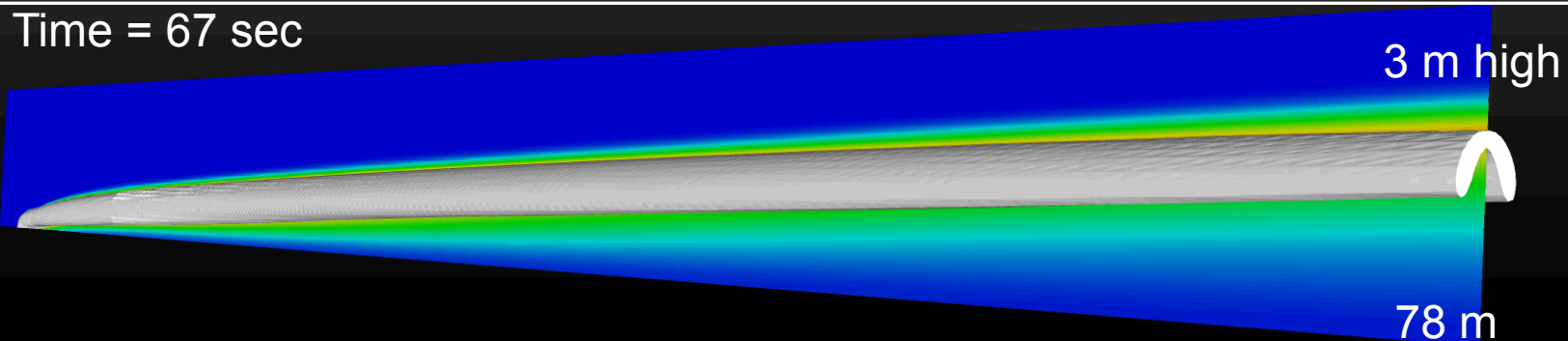
Time = 3 sec



Time = 25 sec



Time = 67 sec



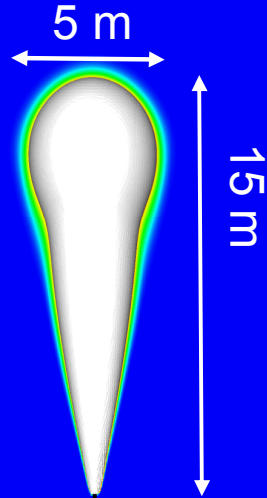
**Worst case, will likely dissipate at shorter lengths**

Does not include effect of downstream air disturbances/turbulence

# Wind speed increases dissipation

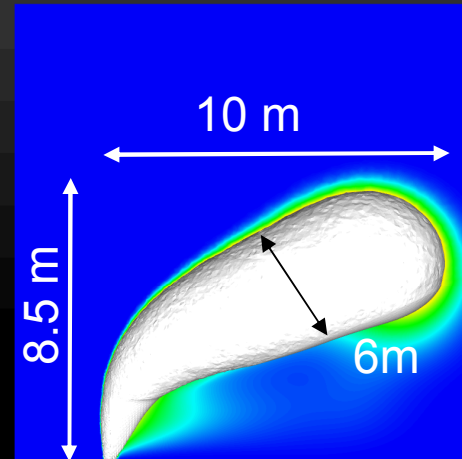
Time = 3.02 sec

No Wind  
8% Flam Vol

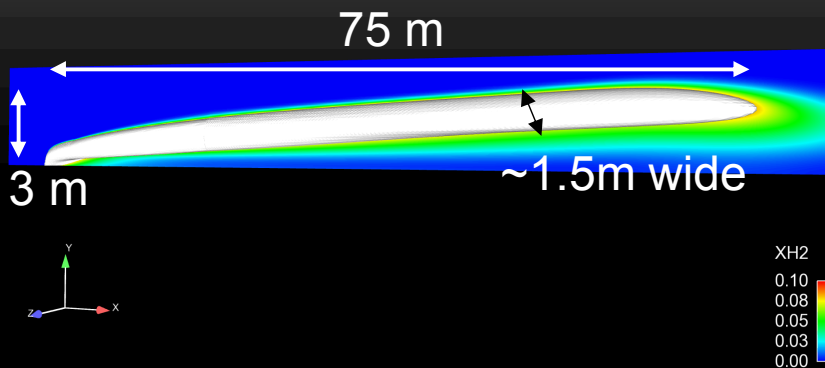


Time = 3.014 sec

5 knot wind  
8% Flam Vol



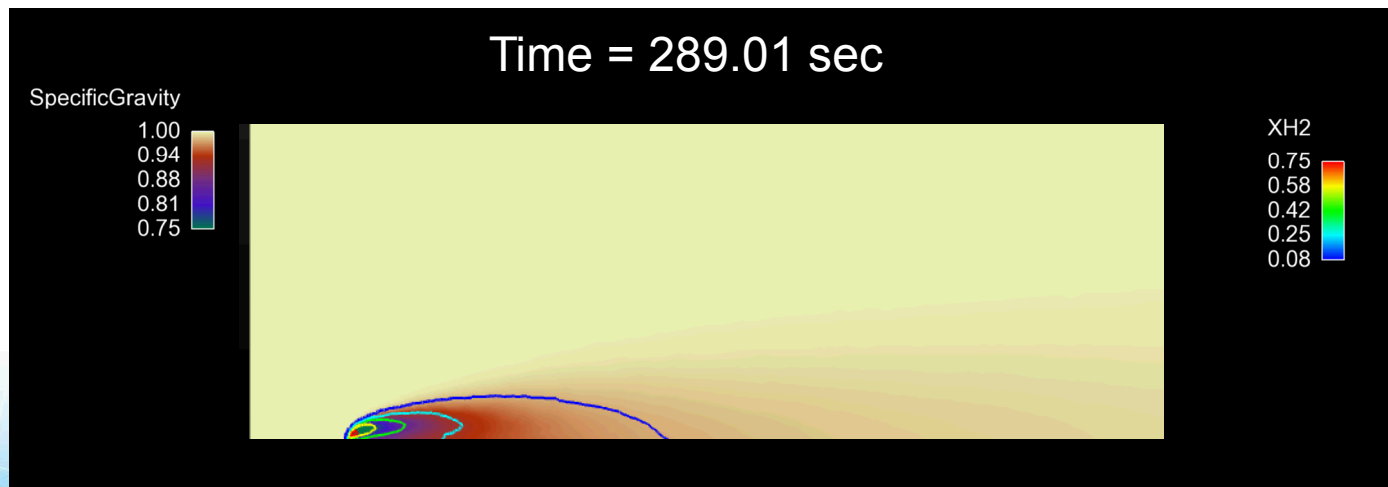
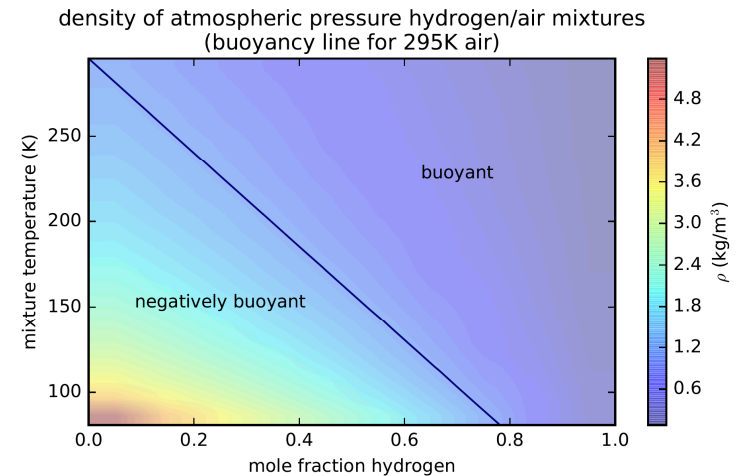
Time = 3.00 sec  
30 Knot Wind  
8% Flam Vol



H <sub>2</sub> Mass	No Wind	5 Knots	30 Knots
Total	28.1 kg	28.0 kg	27.6 kg (out end)
Flammable	25.3 kg	23.8 kg	21.1 kg

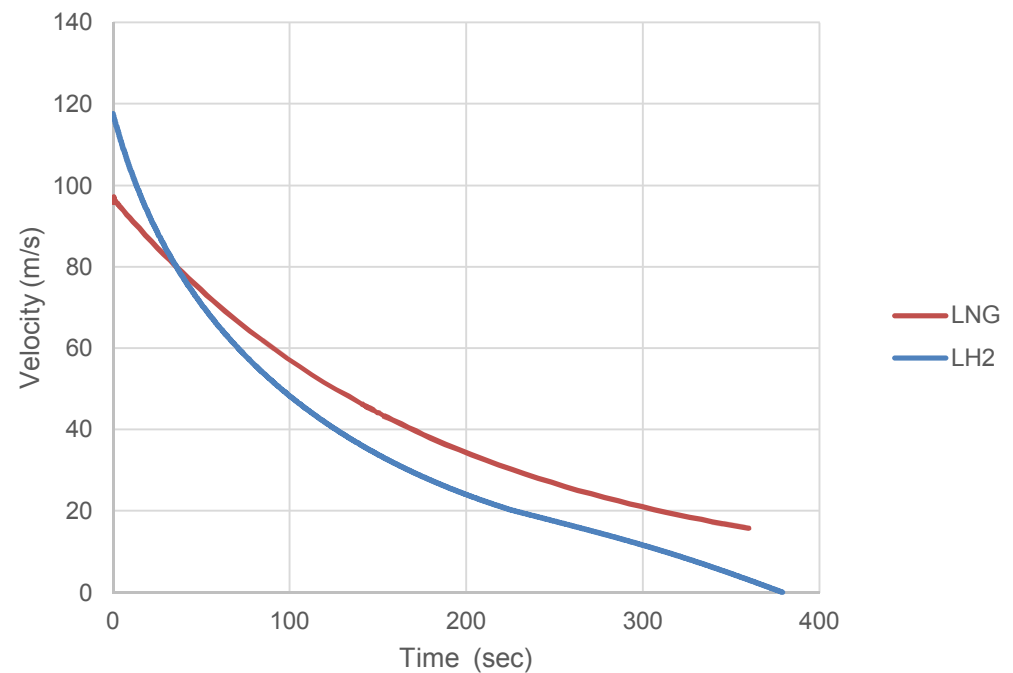
# Buoyancy

- Flammable concentrations will be positively buoyant
- Near the vent is coldest, but has highest H<sub>2</sub> concentration
- Specific Gravity =  $\rho / \rho_{\text{air}}$ 
  - $\rho_{\text{air}} = 0.001196 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- SG < 1 is positively buoyant



# Comparison to LNG

- Same:
  - Leak size – 1"
  - Tank pressure – 150 psi
  - Tank volume – 4500 gal
- Different:
  - Mass flow rate
  - Momentum
  - Time to empty



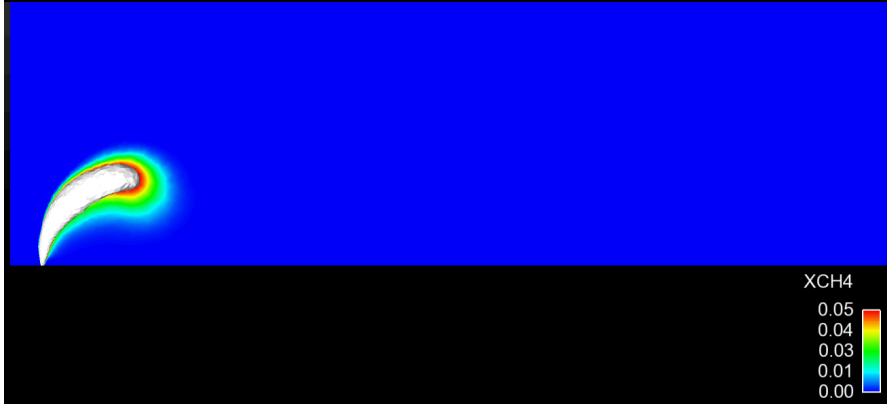


# Comparison to LNG – 5 knot wind

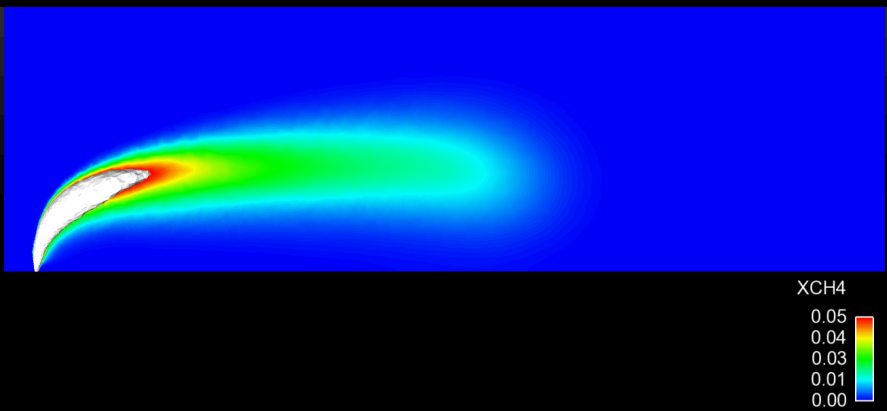
- Equivalent leak size, tank pressure, and tank volume

## LNG Release

Time = 3.00 sec



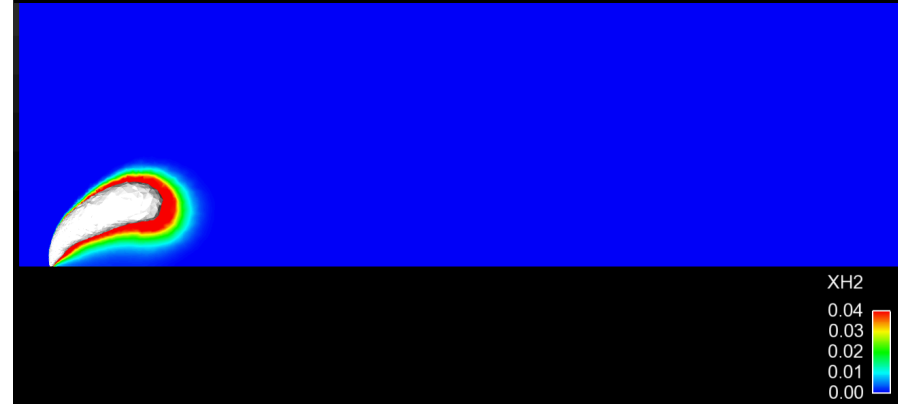
Time = 14.002 sec



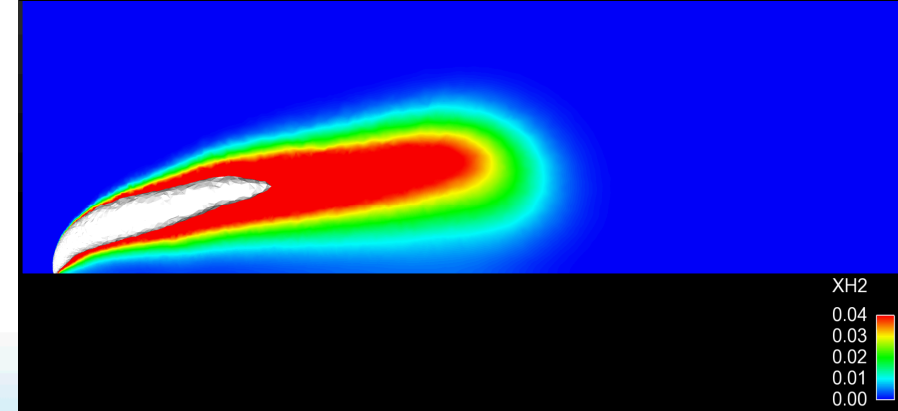
Max Flammable Plume:  
10 m long, 9.5 m high

## H2 Release

Time = 3.047 sec



Time = 14.002 sec



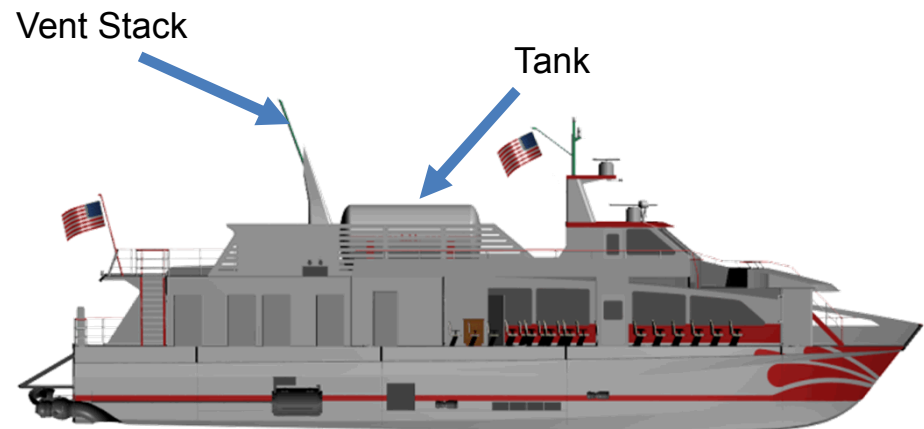
Max Flammable Plume:  
20 m long, 7.7 m high

# Outline

- SF-BREEZE Feasibility Study
- **Gas Dispersion Analysis**
  1. Abnormal Blowdown
  2. **Normal Boiloff**
  3. Fuel cell room

## Scenario 2: Normal Venting due to Boiloff

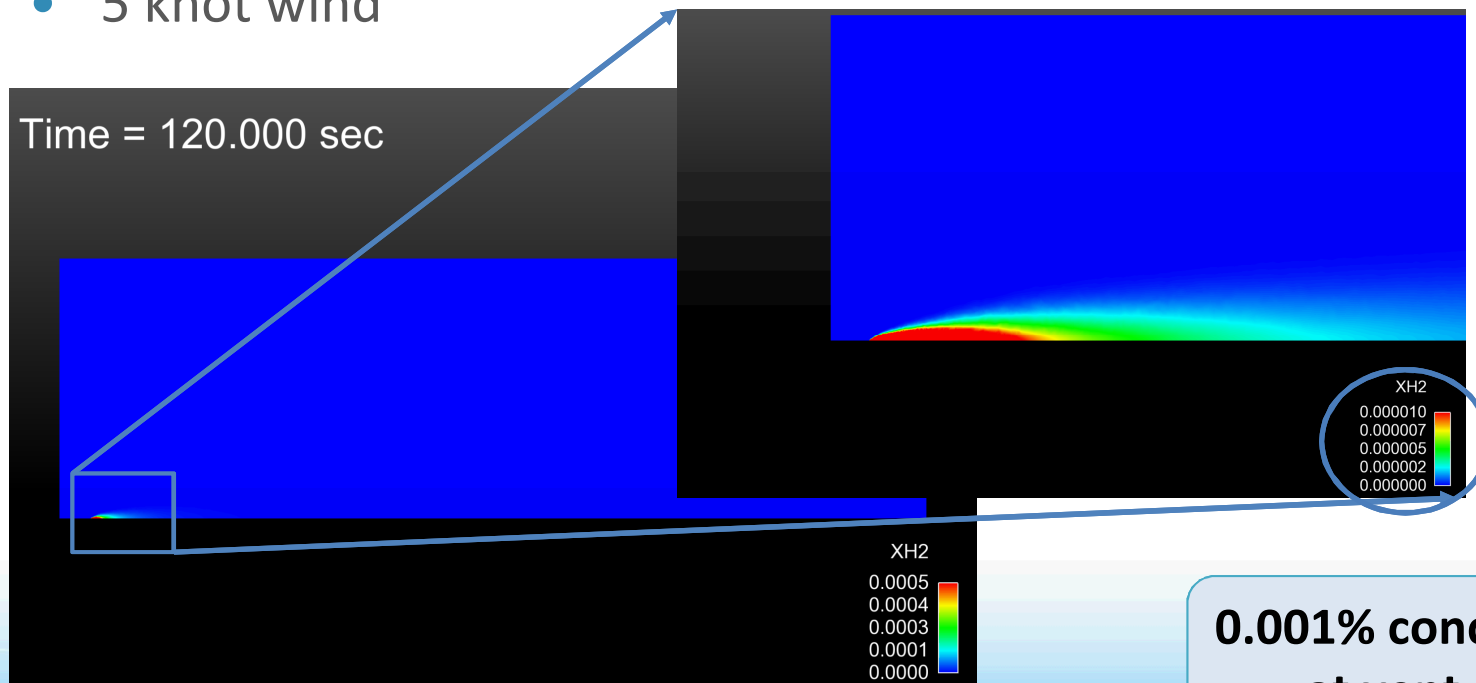
- Pressure will build up if LH<sub>2</sub> tank is not used for several days
  - Tank Dimensions
    - 150 PSI
    - ~4500 gallons
  - Vent Stack
    - ~7 inch internal diameter
    - 25 feet tall (7.5 m)
  - 1% of tank per day assumed (0.6% is expected)
    - 1200kg tank -> 12 kg/day boil off
  - Currently intentional releases of H<sub>2</sub> are not allowed while docked
    - Turn on fuel cells or some other way of reducing pressure needed



## Scenario 2: Boil-off

### Boil-off produces no flammable mass

- Steady state in tank – release limited by liquid hydrogen boiling to vapor and escaping
- 1% of tank per day assumed (0.6% is expected)
- 1200kg tank -> 12 kg/day boil off through a 2" valve
- 5 knot wind



**0.001% concentration  
at vent outlet**



# Outline

- SF-BREEZE Feasibility Study

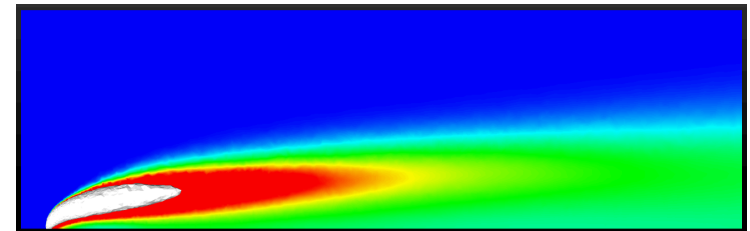
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1. Abnormal Blowdown from LH<sub>2</sub> Tank
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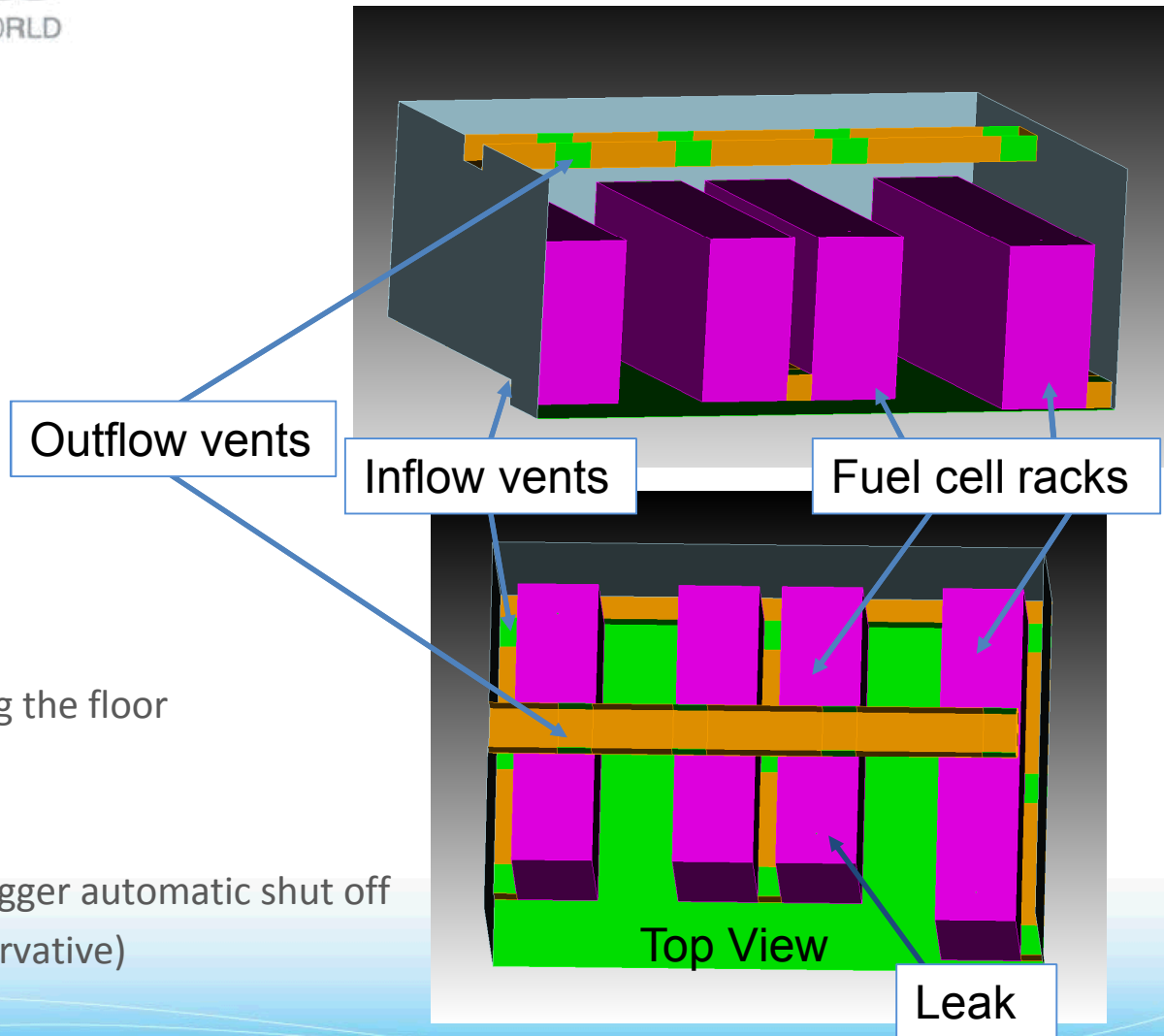
## Examination of Maritime Hazardous Zone Regulations Applied to Hydrogen



# Scenario 3: Leak inside a fuel cell room



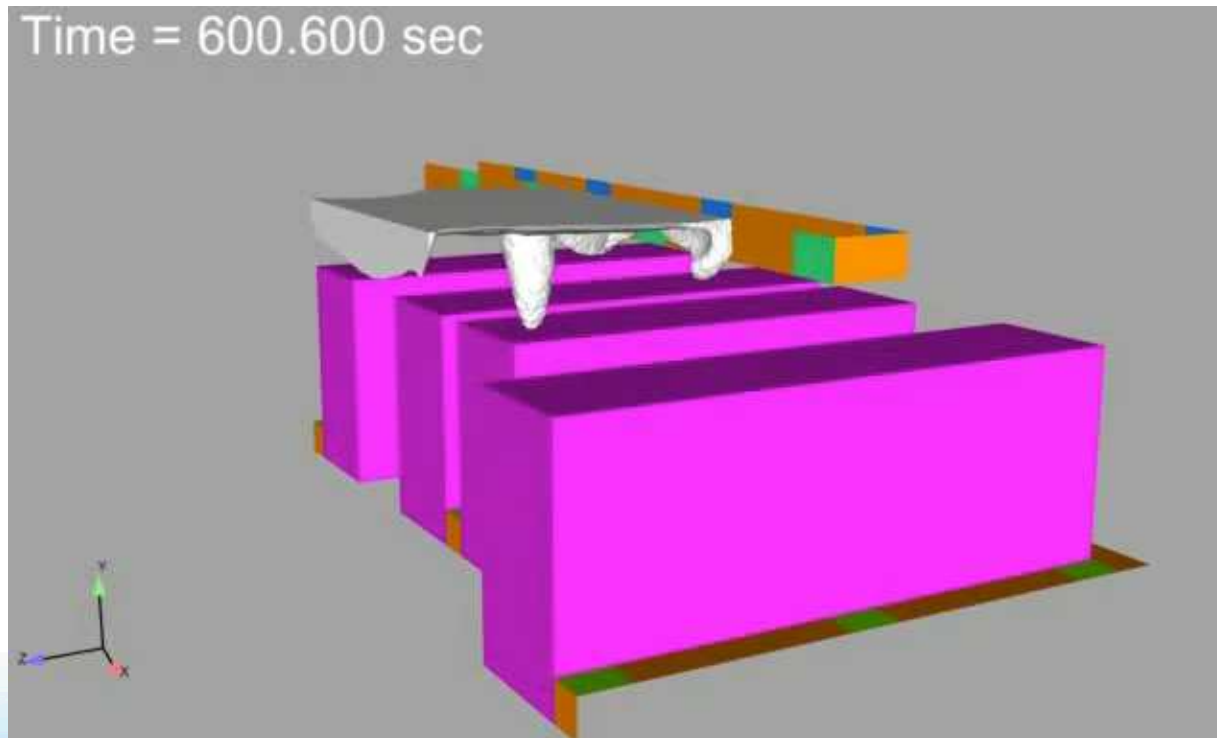
©Hydrogenics Corp.



- Ventilation:
  - 200 cfm from 9 vents along the floor
  - Outflow vents near ceiling
- Leak from top of one rack
  - Pressure sensors would trigger automatic shut off
  - Stopped after 2 sec (conservative)

# Fuel Cell Room

- Leak
  - Pressure = 100psi, 1" leak diameter
  - Starts at 600 sec (10 min to set up ventilation)
  - Stopped after 2 sec



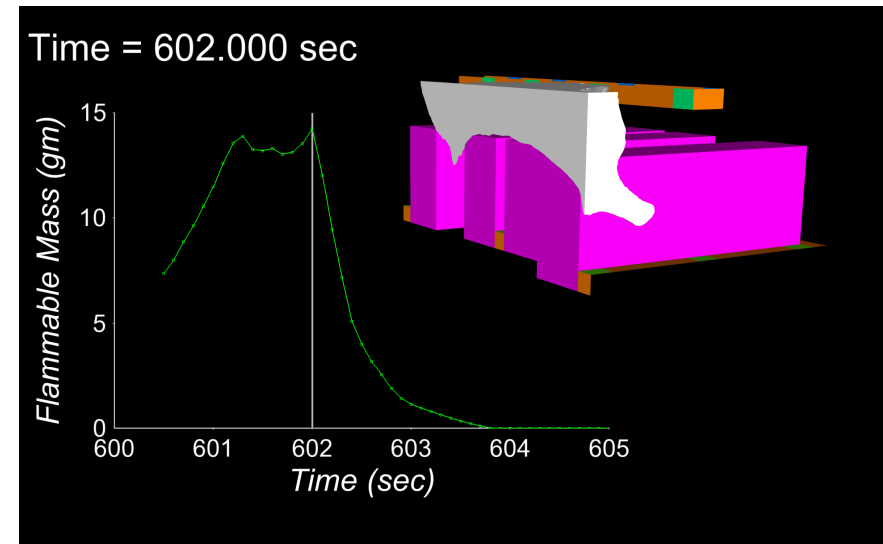
# Flammable volume of H<sub>2</sub> can be used to determine potential overpressure hazard

Flammable mass : Cumulative fuel mass mixed into flammable concentrations (mixtures between 8% and 75% by volume for H<sub>2</sub>-air)

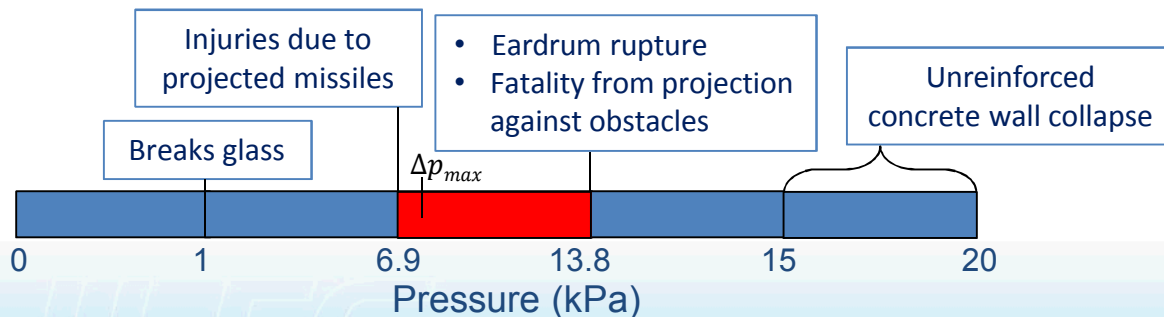
$$\Delta p = p_0 \left\{ \left[ \frac{V_T + V_H}{V_T} \frac{V_T + V_{stoich}(\sigma - 1)}{V_T} \right]^\gamma - 1 \right\}$$

C. R. Bauwens, S. Dorofeev, Proc. ICHS, 2013.

$p_0$ : Ambient pressure  
 $V_T$ : Facility volume  
 $V_H$ : Expanded volume of pure H<sub>2</sub>  
 $V_{stoich}$ : Stoichiometric consumed H<sub>2</sub> volume  
 $\sigma$ : Stoichiometric H<sub>2</sub> expansion ratio  
 $\gamma$ : Air specific heat ratio (1.4)



## Potential Consequences:



$$\Rightarrow \Delta p_{max} = 7.7 \text{ kPa}$$

**Chance of small injuries from overpressure — Local blast waves not considered**



# Summary of Results

## Scenario 1: Abnormal Blowdown

- Hydrogen plume shape is greatly influenced by the wind due to large density difference compared to air
- Plume is always positively buoyant even when very cold H<sub>2</sub> (70 K)
- Plume of flammable H<sub>2</sub> will be longer than plume of flammable natural gas

## Scenario 2: Normal Boil-off

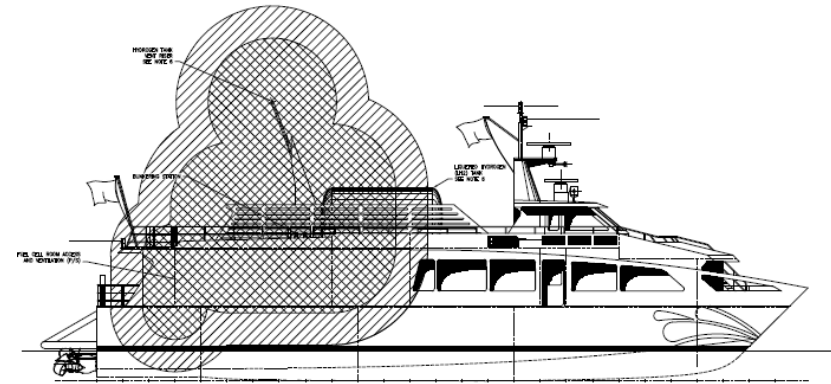
- During “boil off” venting there is no flammable concentration of gas

## Scenario 3: Fuel cell room leak

- Large leak in fuel cell room will have flammable concentrations for only a very short period of time after source is shut off
- If ignited, will produce moderate overpressures

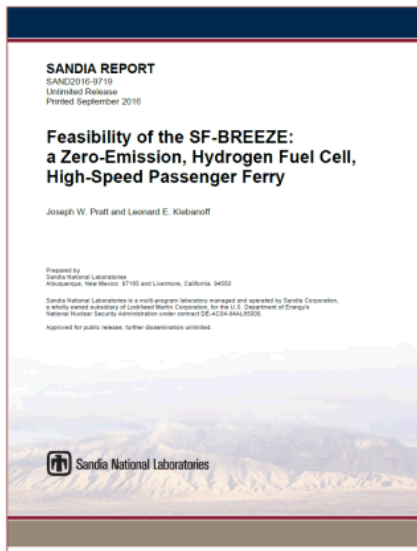
# Next Steps

- Consultation with stakeholders, in particular USCG, ABS, and DNV-GL:
  - Refine results
  - Determine how to apply to hazardous zones in the code
  - Define follow-on studies



# Thank You!

For more information visit:  
**[maritime.sandia.gov](http://maritime.sandia.gov)**



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***Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance (META) program***

# BACK-UP SLIDES



## SF-BREEZE by the numbers

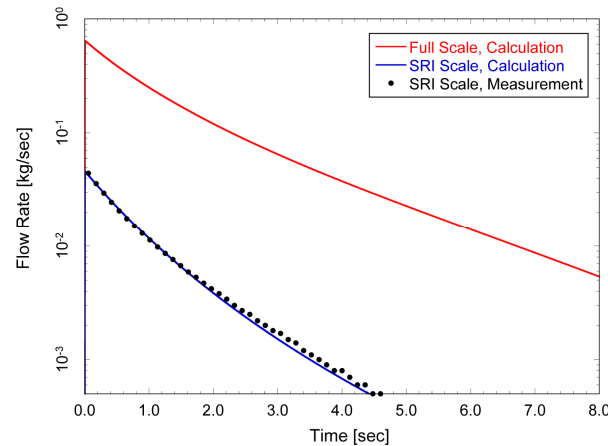
- Length 109' x Beam 33' x Depth 11.25'
- Full Load Draft ~ 4.6'
- Full Load Displacement ~133 LT
- Passengers: 150
- Service Speed: 35 knots
- Tonnage: 79.86 GRT
- Passenger Cabin Forward, Fuel Cells Aft
- LH<sub>2</sub> tank located on centerline (>B/5 from side)
- Propulsion power 4.4 MW, installed power 4.92 MW
- Optimization on this design is currently underway



# Propulsion system architecture

1. Fuel cells feed DC-DC power converter to regulate voltage
  - 41 Fuel cell units –  $120 \text{ kW} \times 41 = 4.92 \text{ MW}$ 
    - 4.6 MW for propulsion, 120 kW for other loads, remainder is margin
2. DC-DC power converters feed DC-AC power inverters
3. DC-AC power inverters feed AC PM propulsion motors (2 x 2 MW Permanent Magnet AC motors)
4. AC PM propulsion motors feed linear jet or water jet propellers (2 x 2.6 MW)

# Simulation Validations

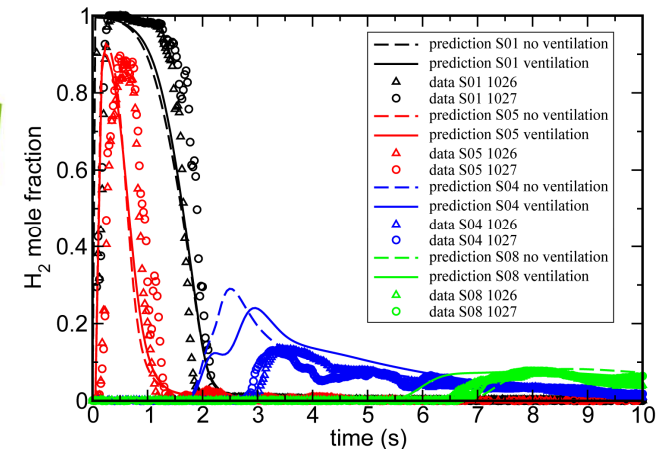
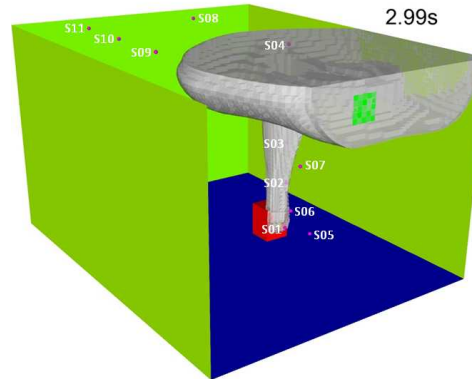


Blowdown release rates calculated via Sandia network flow solver (NETFLOW)

Winters, SAND Report 2009-6838.

Sandia “FUEGO” CFD flow solver

- Finite volume
- Compressible Navier-Stokes
- k- $\epsilon$  turbulence model
- Slip isothermal walls (294 K)
- ~10 cm mesh spacing

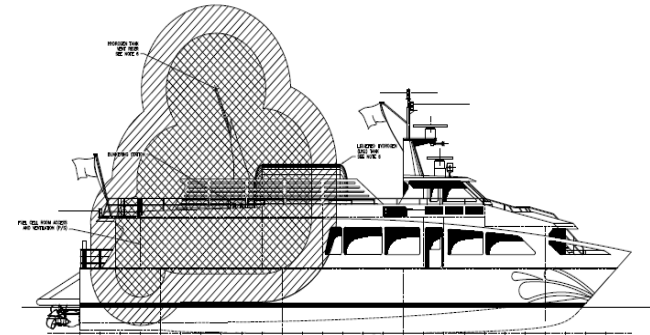


Houf et al., Int J H2Energy, 2013.

Methodology previously validated against large-scale hydrogen blowdown release experiments

# Purpose

- Goal
  - Inform accurate hazardous zone requirements for hydrogen
- Benefit
  - Avoid situations that are unsafe
  - Avoid placing undue burden on vessel design and layout
  - Enable faster and easier approval



# Method

- A. CFD (gas dispersion) on most typical release scenarios with hydrogen and natural gas (to see the differences)
  - 1. Work with experts at USCG and Class to define most representative vent/release scenarios
  - 2. Configure and run models
  - 3. Analyze results
  - 4. Present results to MARAD, USCG, and Class and revise/refine/repeat as needed
- B. Harmonization of NFPA and IGF prescriptive hazardous zones
- C. Using results of (A) and (B) propose revisions to IGF codes as needed



# LH<sub>2</sub> and LNG are similar cryogenic fuels

LH<sub>2</sub>:

Liquid Normal Boiling Point = 20 K (-253 C).

Liquid Density = 71 g/L

Lower Heating Value = 120 MJ/kg

LNG (LCH<sub>4</sub>):

Liquid Normal Boiling Point = 111 K (-162 C).

Liquid Density = 422 g/L

Lower Heating Value = 45 MJ/kg

**For the same amount of stored energy:**

- LH<sub>2</sub> is lighter  
(m = 0.38 x LNG)
- LH<sub>2</sub> is bigger  
(V = 2.4 x LNG)

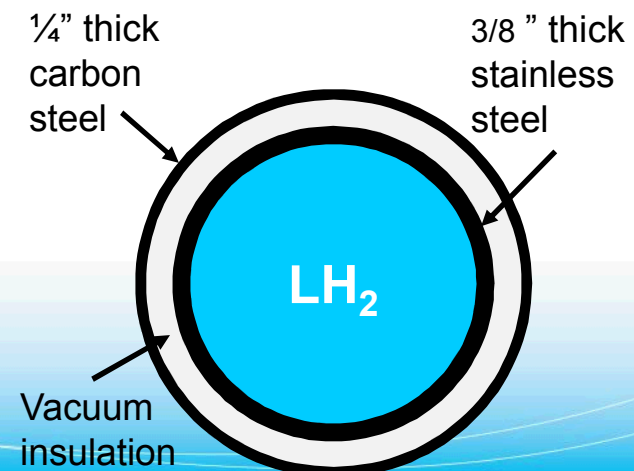
LNG and LH<sub>2</sub> are stored in similar ways:



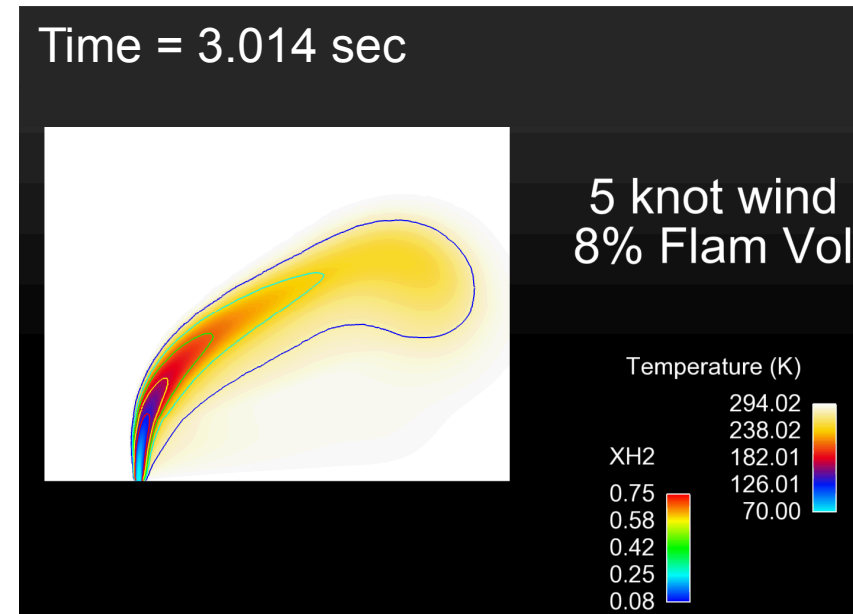
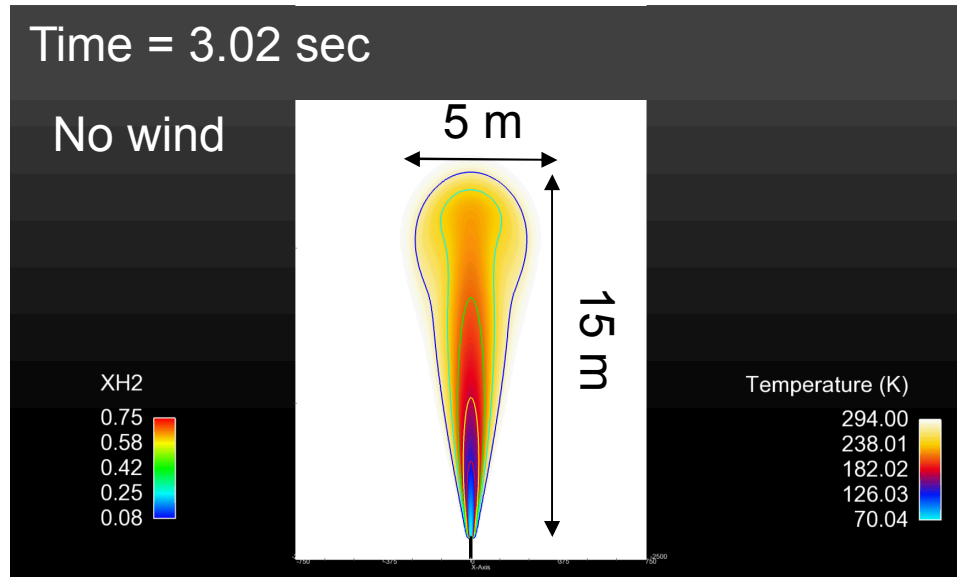
LH<sub>2</sub> Storage Tank on Trailer



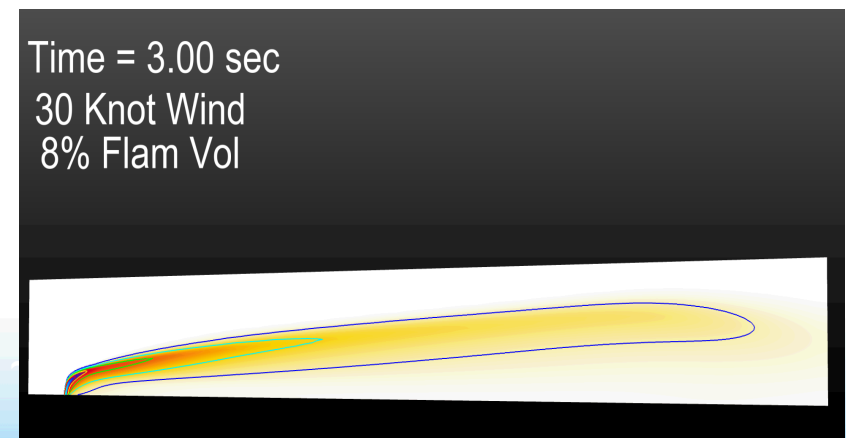
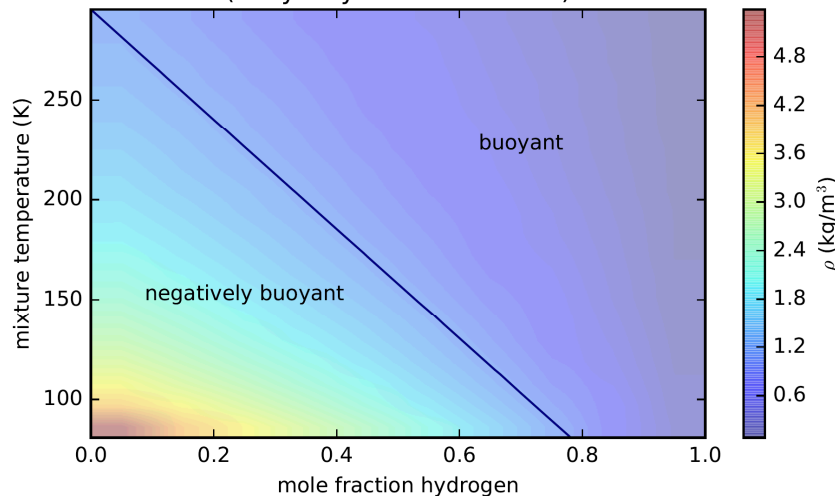
LNG Storage Tank on Trailer



# Temperature: Cold at high concentrations



density of atmospheric pressure hydrogen/air mixtures  
(buoyancy line for 295K air)



$$70 \text{ K} = -203 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} = -333 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$$

# Hazardous Zones Philosophy

- Based on guidance for LNG in IGF code
  - USCG recommendation
  - Comparison of LH<sub>2</sub> and LNG Properties With a Focus on Safety – Sandia
- Emergency Shut Down (ESD) arrangement
  - Two independent fuel cell rooms provide redundancy
- LH<sub>2</sub> tank and fuel delivery components located on open deck
- Bunkering station located on open deck